The
Explicit Phonics Concept

For more information:

The Writing Road to Reading, *(1987?)*

The Writing and Spelling Road to Reading and Thinking, *(2003)*

spalding.org/riggsinst.org/orton-gillingham.org

Experts Speak Up for Explicit Phonics

Dolores Hiskes, The Right to Read Report, February 1998

"Scientific research has clearly demonstrated that explicit phonics is the most effective for all students."

There is so much confusion between implicit and explicit phonics because…explicit phonics has not generally been included in graduate teaching curriculum for over 50 years, and…teachers cannot teach what they do not know."

Dr. Robert C. Aukeman, Approaches to Beginning Reading

Devotes 10 pages to The Spalding (Riggs) Method, citing national scores from many schools that obtained exemplary test results.

P.G. Aaron, R. Malatesha Joshi, Reading Problems, Consultation and Remediation. The Guilford Press, 1992

"The Writing Road to Reading Program … has been extensively tested, with good results."

E. McEwan, The Principal's Guide to Raising Reading Achievement, Corwin Press, Inc. 1998

The Gallego School in Tucson, Arizona has been a "Spalding School" for 15 years, a remarkable achievement in a day when innovations appear and vanish overnight. …60% of the students receive free lunch and over 80% are Hispanic. The school has, however, consistently ranked at or above the national and state averages on a standardized test. …the school enjoys a remarkable consistency of instruction and purpose…."

Maureen Street, a Senior Teacher at Youngtown Primary School, Launceton, Tasmania

… began the Spaulding/Riggs Program with her fourth grade class and their success let to a formal evaluation of The Method. Spelling classes were begun with grades 1 and 2 for thirty minutes, four mornings a week. Their assessments showed the students improved between 150% to more than 200%.

Wiley Blevins, author Phonics A to Z, Master of Ed. Harvard

"Explicit instruction is the most effective type of phonics instruction, especially for children at risk for reading difficulties."

Arizona State University – Four Year Longitudinal Study

Finished in 2009, ASU's four year study showed Spalding-trained students scored 10 points higher on reading assessments than control classrooms at the end of each of the first four years of their reading instruction.

www.spalding..org/research

Oregon Law Supported Explicit Phonics 1999-2012

From 1999 to 2012, ORS 337.275 required each school district to provide explicit phonics materials for K-2 teachers to use.

The law was inexplicably repealed in 2012.

What is "explicit phonics?"

"*Explicit phonics* associate the ***sounds*** of English words with the ***written symbols*** (letters/letter combinations)

WITHOUT

- Letter names
- Key words or word families
- Pictures

The Basics

- The student simultaneously **hears** the phonogram, **sees** the phonogram, **says** the phonogram and **writes it correctly**, making a complete multi-sensory cycle;
- Perfect handwriting is supported from day one;
- The student creates their own reference notebook.

The Process…

- Memorize the 70 phonograms (originally identified by Dr. Samuel T. Orton in the 1930's, and currently in the public domain) with *automaticity*
- Correctly print each letter and number, as the alphabet phonograms are learned
- Learn 30 spelling words a week, *marking*© all phono-grams, making "sound it out" understandable at last, introducing complete oral and written sentences
- Learn the 47 Spelling, Capitalization…. Rules
- Create their own Reference Notebook as they acquire each concept

Which schools in our area are using Riggs now?

- Archbishop Howard (Portland)
- Mitch Charter School (Tigard)
- Mitch Charter School (Sherwood)
- Cascade Heights Public Charter School
- Emmaus Christian School (Cornelius) – **since 1989**

Accredited Spalding Schools

- Village Christian Schools – Sun Valley, CA
- Fort Caspar Academy – Caspar, WY
- Benjamin Franklin Charter School – Mesa, AZ
- Alhambra Traditional School – Phoenix, AZ
- Valley Academy Charter – Phoenix, AZ
- Benjamin Franklin Charter School – Gilbert, AZ
- Timpanogos Academy – Lindon, UT
- Chandler Traditional Academy (2) – Chandler, AZ
- Benjamin Franklin Charter School – Queen Creek, AZ

Riggs Schools Added in 2011-12

- Northwood Elementary, Anchorage AK
- New Covenant School -- Lynchburg, VA
- St. Peter Catholic School -- Monument, CO
- St. Joseph Academy -- San Marcos, CA
- St. Theresa Catholic School – Sugarland, TX

See for yourself…

1. Visit these websites for more information:
   - spalding.org
   - riggsinst.org
   - orton-gillingham.org
2. Visit a school near you or request random samples of student work to compare with your student's work
3. *Then lobby to help public schools!*

Riggs/Spalding cost almost nothing…

- The only thing students need to learn to read with ***Riggs/Spalding*** (besides a teacher) is a pencil and paper (with guidelines), the re-usable phonogram cards, a practice CD and a journal;
- Both trainings are inexpensive, and peer training is easy; parents quickly pick up and reinforce this method;
- The vast array of wonderful children's literature already in school libraries is essential.

Experts Speak Up for Phonics

See also: National Right to Read Foundation

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Help America’s children now!

If you would like to help bring the efficiency of explicit phonics to American students, please contact:

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